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Satisfaction eludes till call is answered

FORT WORTH—Julian Fagan, former pro football player, successful Amory, Miss., lawyer and local Laurel hero, was not satisfied in any of those roles.

John Stewart, another Laurel man, was doing well in data processing but he missed a major promotion because he lacked a college degree.

Jim Burton left the financial management of 16 Florida hospitals to someone else.

At age 51, when most men accumulate all they can to prepare for retirement, Charles McGlothlin turned down a promotion.

says Boyles, 36, a pharmacist in Amarillo, Tex., for 13 years.

Although Fagan sought a "call" from God to the ministry for a long time, even when he was punter for the New Orleans Saints and the New York Jets, he finally felt it when he visited in the home of an obscure 85-year-old man who had just died. As others delivered condolences to the widow, they spoke of her husband and what he had meant in their lives.

Fagan asked himself, "What could you do with your life that would be more important than what this man did?"

There are not higher and lower callings under God."

Burton, 39, and once on a career course toward being a millionaire, said his hardest adjustment is having no income at his age. "We're spending our nest egg and that's very frightening," he says. "It forces us to put our trust totally in the Lord."

"We talk about it, but to step out and live by faith is another matter. It's one thing the majority of the laity never experience. Some people say 'you've lost your mind.' And if there's no God, I have."

Burton used to blame his pastor for all the people who were not coming to church. The night he accepted a promotion that would have moved him to California, he dreamed of millions of people dying without Christ.

"I have a strong burden on my heart for people that are lost and going to hell" Burton says. "I cannot consciously exist in the world and not be bothered. I can't work 10 hours a day in ungodly work that did not further God's kingdom and spend one night a week visiting and several hours in Bible study."

Charles McGlothlin, an assistant controller for Conoco, worked day and night for months on what would have been the biggest merger in corporate history between Conoco and Dupont.

He gained peace from verses in Philippians 3:7-11 that reminded him all gain is to be counted as loss for the greater joy of knowing Christ.

After the near miss merger, there was "a miraculous turning off of interest in my job," said McGlothlin, 51. "It became irrelevant, although I had loved my job and worked very hard at it. All I could think of was getting to seminary."



Julian Fagan reviews a computer printout of students over age 30. (David Bell photo.)

Steve Washburn, a quick stepper in fast track data processing, left a major job in New York.

Ralph Boyles sold his pharmacy. These men, and hundreds like them at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex., left rising careers in midstream to pursue a distinct call to ministry.

Last semester 1,314 persons 30 years old or older enrolled at Southwestern, including 270 who are 40 or older. They push the average age of a Southwestern student just past 29. Nationwide, the second career seminarian phenomenon has raised the seminarians' average age to 32, compared to 25 just a decade ago, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Reasons for leaving careers envied by other men are remarkably similar among Southwesterners who agreed to talk about their call to ministry. All were successfully juggling career aspirations with family life and what many would consider an adequate church life.

Then suddenly, almost inexplicably, they lost all interest in the jobs that had consumed so much of their lives. Even the very pinnacle of achievement in their field seemed an insignificant contribution.

"You just get to a point in your life where you wonder how much what you're doing means in eternity,"

He began to think in terms of eternal consequences, rather than daily living.

Since he decided to come to seminary, he said a millionaire friend told him "You'll never regret what you've done. I've been successful, but I've never been happy."

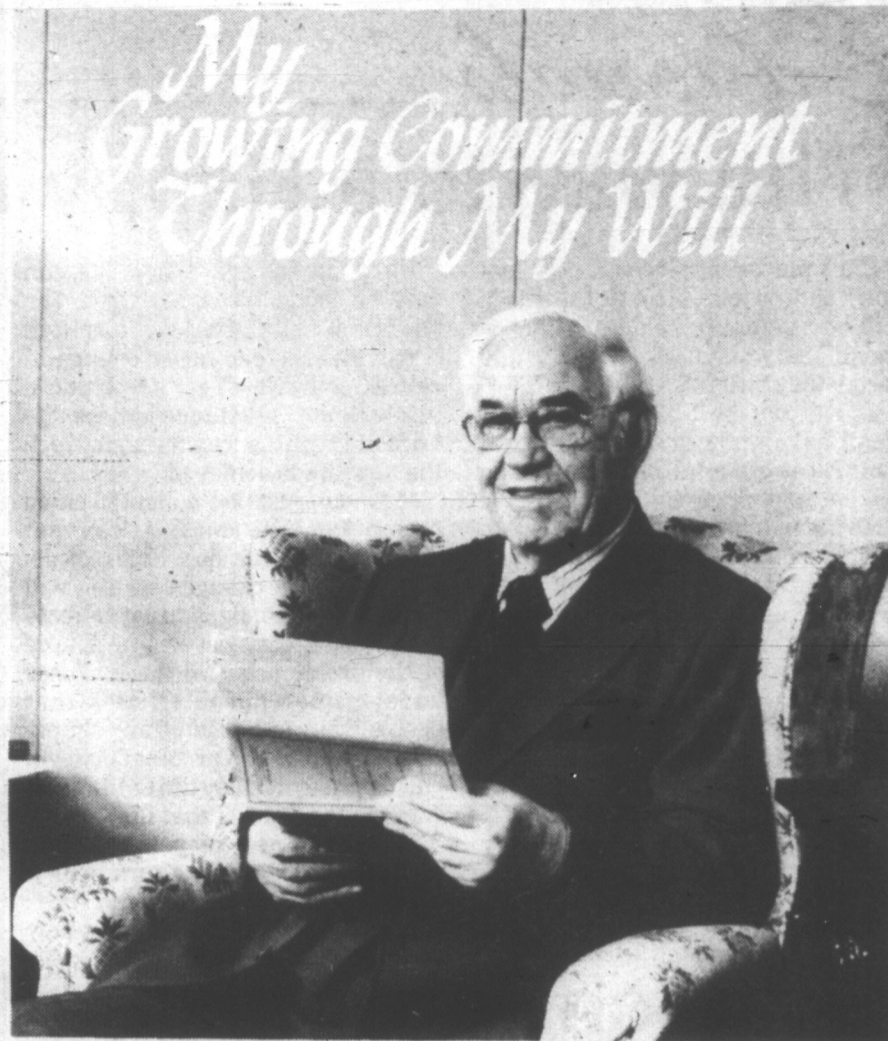
When Stewart missed his promotion at a county hospital for lack of a degree, he thought, "If that's what it takes, I'll get one." But when he graduated from William Carey College he discovered a promotion was not why God had him in school.

So, battle weary from working fulltime, going to school fulltime and being pastor of a church, Stewart came to seminary to prepare for church youth ministry.

None of the men regret their years in "secular work."

"I was doing exactly what I was supposed to be doing at that time and now this is what I'm supposed to be doing," says Mark Coppenger, 34, who taught philosophy at Wheaton College for six years. "Teaching was very much a part of the kingdom work."

"I don't believe in a difference between 'sacred' and 'secular' work. I would be doing kingdom work selling insurance in Chattanooga if I were doing it with grace and integrity."



January is Make Your Will Month.

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Retirement frees Rebers for work in New Zealand

By Bill Webb

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Foreign Mission Board Vice President Sid Reber and his wife, Alwilda, came to retirement just in time to take a new assignment as church planters in New Zealand.

Board members established a formal fraternal relationship with the Baptist Union of New Zealand during the same meeting they honored the couple for seven years of missionary service in Singapore and

his 14 as vice president of the Office of Management Services.

Reber retires Jan. 31 and beginning April 1, the Rebers will spend two years under the New Zealand union to establish a church in a small but growing area on the nation's North Island. They will work alongside Pastor Doug Patrick of nearby New Plymouth Baptist Church, sponsor of the new congregation.

"This is an area which is growing because of oil exploration off the coast," Reber explained. "We will be working with a small nucleus of believers who are in that area. They have six or seven couples there who are willing to start the work."

Under the agreement linking the board and the Baptist union, New Zealand will not be considered a mission field. Baptist work there is well-developed, dating to 1851. The union was established in 1882 and the Baptist Missionary Society of New Zealand, which appoints home and overseas missionaries, was organized three years later.

The relationship will facilitate sending personnel to the country for partnership missions and other projects.

(Webb writes for the Foreign Mission Board.)



John Stewart works in the seminary computer center. (David Bell photo.)

Editorials by don mcgregor

The way to a Happy New Year

It's time to turn over a new leaf now, and people all over the world will be attempting to do just that in these early days of 1984. By and large, they will fail.

It will not be because that they don't have the desire that they will fail. The world is full of well-meaning people who sincerely want to make their lives more meaningful. Every year during the season given to the observance of the beginning of a new year, they determine within themselves that they will do better. They resolve to turn over a new leaf.

But they fail. Why?

They don't know the Lord, the Author of life, the Creator through whom all things are made new. The apostle Paul points to the way, in II Cor. 5:17. He says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

It's plain enough. A new life can only be found through Christ. The world, with all of the good intentions it can muster, can never change itself. All of the New Year's resolutions are without substance unless the Lord of life is the way through which the new life is achieved.

Make no mistake, a non-Christian person can quit smoking, can quit drinking, and can quit living in deceit. All these changes take is will power. These changes do not indicate a changed life, however. The source of the problem is still there. Those undesirable characteristics that people want to be rid of are simply manifestations of a problem that will still be present in any life until Christ is made the Lord of that life.

So this is a new year. It is a time when, traditionally, we turn over a new leaf . . . when we get a new start. It is a peg on which to hang a new

beginning.

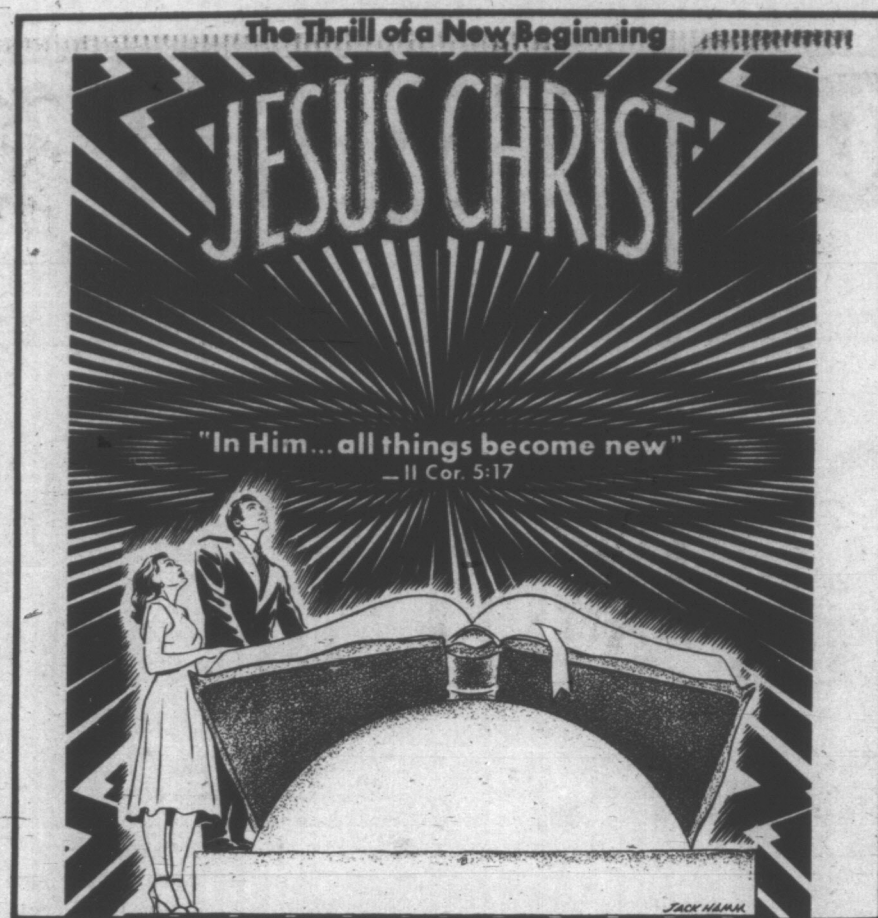
The only sure and unfailing peg is Christ. Only in looking to him can we find newness of life and the strength to carry on in it.

Those of us who know Christ are not immune to the need to make changes in our lives . . . to establish new beginnings. This should be a constant consideration, however, and not a concept to be hung on a peg called New Year's Day.

If we have been negligent in seeking the Lord in order to effect the changes that are needed in our lives, there is no need to wait longer.

A new year is beginning. Surely it is not too early to be finding the new direction in life that may have been postponed. The Lord is the source of new life.

May this year and all of life be lived with Christ at the core of it. Then for all of us it will be a Happy New Year.



Guest opinion Believe me, I know

By Timothy Parker

I'd like to tell a story to youngsters everywhere
The reason for the story? Well let's just say I care.

It's not a fiction story, just cold hard fact
It's not a pretty story. It can't be told with tact.

It's my story; I'm a dope fiend; just call me misery.
Go on with what your doing, and I'll have company.

Think twice before you fill that rig and take a seat in hell.
For four years I've had that seat in and out of jail.

Don't knock it till you've tried it, seems the thing today.
I've tried it all, I've shot it all each and every day.

I'm qualified to knock it, and that's just what I do.
It's wrecked my life; believe me, it'll wreck yours too.

I started out like you, with just a little grass.
It wasn't long till it dawned on me, the kicks just didn't last.

Next came the pills to pep me up and drive me day by day.
Then came the Birds and after that, down hill all the way.

I've done a bit of everything, I guess, there is to do
Don't think it brought me happiness, 'cause I've got news for you.

It may seem smart while you're a kid, but as the years go by,
There'll come a day when just like me you'll sit for hours and cry.

I sit here now behind locked doors, my mind is in a daze,
Thinking back on other times, all those long lost days.

Now they're gone forever; I cannot get them back

Stop! Look around you, young ones, are you on the right track?

When I was out there on those streets, I had loads of friends.
But now that I'm locked up here, not a postcard do they send.

Each day I wait with a spark of hope for some small word.
Each night I go to bed again, and still I haven't heard

From anyone I held so dear out there in the free.
They're too busy doing their own thing to give a thought to me.

I know it isn't so those friends you've had for years.
Some will be there waiting to help you dry your tears.

They'll be so glad to see me out, they'll rush to welcome me
With another shot of that same stuff that stopped my being free.

I pray I'll have the strength to tell them all to go
Straight to hell with all of it, 'cause that's where it leads.

Believe me; I know!

Timothy Parker, who wrote the accompanying poem, recently was released from Oakley Training School near Raymond after serving 1 1/2 years of an eight-year sentence on drug charges. He was supposed to be transferred to Parchman for the final six years of his term when he was released. He wrote the poem following a profession of faith in Christ and before he was aware that he was to be released.

Parker, who grew up in Mobile, Ala., says that he was kicked out of the service because of his drug problem. He is 19 years of age. He is living temporarily in the home of Duran Jenkins, who is assistant scoutmaster with the McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl, Boy Scout Troop 575.

Search for religious freedom

Religious freedom is not an easy principle to maintain; for, as with Baptists and their doctrines, people insist on shades of differences that leave them all holding firmly to the principle in a broad context but finding varying positions from which to maintain their allegiance to the principle.

Generally we were aligned with Bob Jones University in its losing battle with the Internal Revenue Service even though we may not have agreed fully with the concept which led the university to adopt its position. Bob Jones University bases a policy that the IRS declares is discriminatory on the university's interpretation of scripture. We feel that the university has its right to its own interpretation of scripture; and, while we might not interpret it the same way, we feel the federal government has no business trying to determine for the school how it should

be interpreted.

There is a different principle at stake in the issue involving an elementary school operated by Faith Baptist Church in Louisville, Neb. The students at Bob Jones University are not required by law to go to school. It is very likely, however, that Nebraska has some kind of mandatory attendance law for its elementary school-aged children.

The problem is that the church has refused to take the necessary steps to get the school accredited. Therefore, for all intents and purposes, the church was keeping the children going to its school from attending an accredited school. In legal considerations, it was keeping its children out of school.

There is good reason for accreditation of schools, whether or not we want to be involved with the state to the point of establishing accreditation. Teaching children in a non-accredited school is about the same as teaching them at home. When they have finished their course work at such a school, they will not have achieved the proper credentials for entering college. Also, should the family move and there be no similar non-accredited school at the new location, the children would not have credentials to enter public school or an accredited private school. This is a genuine disservice to the children, for it robs them of education possibilities when they are too young to make these important decisions for themselves. And it caused the church to break the law.

The townspeople feel it is all an attempt at obtaining publicity. When 150 ministers from around the country decided to go to Louisville to help the church, they asked the governor of Nebraska to furnish protection for them. The townspeople largely are ignoring the situation and say that if there were to have been any trouble it would have developed long ago.

The ministers claim the lack of protection led to their being attacked and bullets being fired through the windows. The claim is that the sheriff would not investigate. On the other hand, the sheriff's office has a report of an investigation that did turn up evidence of shots being fired. Air rifle BBs were found on the window ledge.

In trying to stop the school from operating, a judge had ordered the building padlocked. Television preacher Jerry Falwell went over, taking his cameras with him, to cut the padlock off of the door. When he got there, however, he had to buy a new lock to cut off for his cameras. The sheriff had taken the other one off three weeks before, according to a report by Evangelical Press News Service.

Religious freedom is a precious commodity. It is understandable that people exercise a great deal of zeal in seeking to protect it. We don't all understand its precepts in the same manner, however. And when a child is denied a creditable education in the name of religious freedom, there seems to be some lack of understanding.

Baptist merger in Russia causes need for building

ARCHANGEL—When a Baptist group, separated in the 1960s and meeting independently since that time, joined the Archangel Baptist Church (related to the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the USSR) in 1982, it became apparent that a larger prayer house was needed.

So, although the Archangel church had dedicated a new site only in 1978, the recently-united congregation started work on an enlargement plan.

Inaugural services for the building, expanded to approximately three times its former dimensions and with seating for 185, took place Oct. 30.

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A visiting pastor from the West (right) was invited to offer a spiritual charge and prayer as two young Christian believers in Russia publicly announced their engagement to their church.

Much in common

Russians share fruit, wedding intentions

By John M. Wilkes

VOLGOGRAD, USSR—The Battle of Stalingrad made world headlines in 1943. Forty years later this city—renamed several times since first being settled as the fortress town of Tsaritsyn in 1589—is filled with reminiscences.

Guides claim no tree was left standing in 1943. Now tree-lined boulevards stretch nearly 50 miles along the Volga River. History fills magazines and newspapers; museums keep up the memory with light and sound presentations; and as many as 75 million persons have visited the towering memorial on Manayev Hill.

As the city has rebuilt from the ashes of destruction, its population has reached almost a million, twice that of before World War II.

Christian believers here have been rebuilding also. In 1965 there were 35 churches; there were 59 Christian congregations in 1983. Three Baptist groups were among the 11 new churches registered in this region in the last two years.

The central Baptist Church, one of 13 in Volgograd, baptized nearly 80 new converts in a two-year period, and has more than 600 members now. There are at least 2,000 Baptists in the Volgograd, Saratov, and Astrakhan regions.

"Brother Jakov," the Volgograd Baptist superintendent and his wife came 25 years ago from Siberia, where his parents had become believers and were baptized in an icy river in 1908. Recalling the difficulties his family faced in that era, he says, "We thank the Lord for the time we have here now as believers—pray with us that it will continue."

"Believers here, in our understanding, have full freedom to preach the gospel," he repeated often during our three day visit. "You can tell that to the world!"

After serving as pastor of the main Volgograd church, he went to Volzhsky, a new city some two hours away, when a new congregation began. That church, registered only recently, already has 60 baptized members.

The present pastors and church council invited the four visitors in our group to preach at the Sunday morning service in Volgograd. A young man and woman chose that day to announce to the crowded congregation their engagement and intent to be married. At an appropriate moment they came forward to stand side by side for this special time of recognition and affirmation. A guest, Robert C. Ferguson, read a Bible passage and said a prayer. Eyes glistened with tears of joy as the proud congregation looked on.

We learned later that this ceremony must be observed before a man and woman may go out together or even be seen together by any of the church members. That prompted a question from my wife, Doylene: "But how can anyone know they want to be engaged if they are never allowed to go together until it is announced?"

Our interpreter hesitated, then for Feb. 6-8 at First Church, Gulfport. know which are registered and which are underground churches, don't you? Now just try to think of this custom the same way!"

When the long service had ended, church leaders showed us into a side room where a long table was set with heaping platters of summer fruit—plums, grapes, peaches, honey melons and watermelons. Council members and deacons joined us for a refreshing feast. As they sliced more melons, they also passed trays of fresh dark bread.

It was then I remembered another "watermelon cutting" on a Sunday evening 20 years ago at the church in a Mississippi city where I was pastor. The people back there enjoyed that "basket of summer fruit," and that fellowship in Christ, just as these Russian believers in Volgograd were sharing happily with us now.

The people of God have so much in common, and so much to share everywhere!

(Wilkes is director of European Baptist Press Service.)

"Great Challenge"

Ev.-Bible Conference Set Feb. 6-8, Gulfport

The annual Mississippi Baptist Evangelism-Bible Conference is set for Feb. 6-8 at First Church, Gulfport. Theme of the conference will be "Mississippi's Great Challenge: Church Growth."

The meeting will consist of Bible studies, sermons, and special interest sessions. It is sponsored by the Sun-



Dunn



Branch



Strack



Miles



Parks

day School and Evangelism Departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The program opens at

Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., will discuss "Multiplications of Disciples and Churches,"

6:30 p.m. on Feb. 6 and concludes at noon, Feb. 8.

Featured speakers include Ron Dunn, Harold Branch, Jay Strack, Delos Miles, and Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, as closing speaker.

Dunn, a conference leader from Irving, Tex., will lead studies on "The Meaning of Discipleship," "The Meaning of Church Growth," and "Spiritual Gifts and Church Growth."

Branch, pastor of St. John Baptist Church, Corpus Christi, Tex., will speak on "A Vision of Church Growth," and "Christ, Our Model of Growth."

Miles, professor of evangelism at

and "Why the Immaturity and Incompleteness."

Strack, a Fort Worth-based evangelist, will speak on "The Urgency of Church Growth," and Parks' topic will be "Church Growth and World Missions."

Special interest conferences will be offered twice on Feb. 7. Choices include "The Bible and Making a Small Church Hum," "The Bible and Family Problems," "Women and Evangelism," "Students and Evangelism,"

"Eternal Life or Not," "Evangelism and Intercessory Praying," "Evangelism and Sermon Planning," "Evangelism and Church Growth," and "Evangelism and the Cross."



Young people sit together in balcony section during service at the Baptist Church in Volgograd, (USSR).

DeSoto may get Baptist hospital

Baptist Memorial Health Care System of Memphis received approval of the Mississippi Health Care Commission Dec. 15 to build a 100-bed hospital in DeSoto County contingent on the resolution of legal issue.

The commission earlier rejected a request of DeSoto General Hospital for a certificate of need to build a 120-bed for-profit hospital. That decision was sustained by a chancery court in Jackson, but hospital representatives indicated they planned to appeal to the Mississippi Supreme Court.

The Baptist proposal calls for the construction of a \$12 million hospital near Interstate 55 and Goodman Road, just south of Memphis.

The proposal won endorsements from the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors, Chamber of Commerce and most of the aldermen in the county.

When constructed, the hospital would become the 10th in the 2,766-bed system owned by Southern Baptists in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Others are in Memphis, Covington, Ripley, Union City and Huntington, Tenn.; Booneville, Miss.; and Forrest City, Hardy, and Corning, Ark.

Controversy greets new Virginia-Intermont head

By Tom Miller

BRISTOL, Va. (BP)—James E. Martin Jr., president of Virginia Intermont College since Sept. 1, became locked in controversy with some students and faculty members Dec. 3 when he ordered two charcoal sketches of nudes temporarily removed from a campus art exhibit.

Martin told the *Virginia Religious Herald* on Dec. 12 he had the pieces removed because they "could have been offensive" to persons who were to pass through the gallery on their way to dedication of a renovated theater in the fine arts building.

"I made a value judgment," he said. "It was not censorship; it was a matter of taste."

Other students in the exhibit then withdrew their art, thus closing the display.

A reported 21 faculty members then signed a statement criticizing Martin for "censorship." A local newspaper quoted the document as saying "... we regard it as intolerable both of itself and as it might serve as precedent for action on the part of the president." Acknowledging Martin's "good intentions," the faculty members nevertheless said "in the fields of sculpture, painting, drawing, photography, creative writing, and communications, only one standard can be used as grounds for censorship: that standard is quality."

In a three-hour meeting with the

dissenting faculty Dec. 9, Martin refused to meet demands he "promise" not to do it again. "I appreciate art; I am no expert but I am president of this college," he said. "If an action or activity of the college is offensive, I am ultimately responsible to the college, the community, and the church with whom we have affiliation."

"If the situation should arise again, I would want to sit down with all the parties concerned and explain my position and hear theirs. But I will not abrogate or negate my responsibility to be totally responsible for the institution."

All of Martin's trouble is not artistic. He made clear to the board of trustees before his employment as president he was opposed to alcoholic beverages. Soon after arrival he outlawed the serving of alcohol at any college sponsored function.

That policy brought him into sharp conflict with some students. Curtailing (though not eliminating) visitation between sexes in dormitories also met with student uproar.

V-I is a co-educational senior college with approximately 600 students. It has a programmatic relationship with the Baptist General Association of Virginia and in 1984 will receive \$237,022 in Cooperative Program support.

(Miller is associate editor of *The Virginia Religious Herald*.)

Launch of ACTS may be largest ever for cable

By Greg Warner

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—When the American Christian Television System (ACTS) goes on the air next May, it may be the largest launch of any network in the history of cable television.

Ten of the top 25 cable TV corporations in the country have agreed to carry ACTS, giving the new network the potential of reaching eight million homes through cable. Agreements are in process with these first 10 companies, while other pending agreements could bring the total number of potential homes to 16 million, according to projections by ACTS planners.

ACTS will use cable television, low-power TV and full-power TV stations to deliver 16 hours of family Christian entertainment each day. The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission (RTVC) is assembling the network.

"On any given Sunday, Southern Baptists are fortunate to have four million people in Sunday School," RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen said. "But when ACTS becomes available to these cable homes, Southern Baptists will have access to 40 million people every day of the week."

While attention has been focused on the low-power and full-power stations in the ACTS strategy, the initial impact of the network will be felt through cable television, according to Ron Dixon, vice president of media services for the RTVC.

ACTS has been presenting its case to the national cable TV corporations that hold cable franchises in numerous cities, called multiple system operators (MSO), to get them to carry the network on their local systems. Bill Nichols and Lloyd Hart of the RTVC broadcast services department have been spearheading this work.

Those multiple system operators that have agreed to carry ACTS include American Television and Communications, Cox Cable, Group

W and Storer, each of which have more than a million subscribers. Others are Daniels and Associates, MetroVision, Heritage Communications, TCA Cable, TeleCable, and Vision Cable. Those 10 MSOs report a total 8,045,332 subscribers in 669 franchises across the country.

The Nashville Network, which premiered with seven million cable subscribers in March, is considered the largest network start-up to date. The Disney Channel, which attracted a lot of attention when it kicked off earlier this year, started with only about 300,000 homes.

Once ACTS agreements are signed with the MSOs, each of their local systems will be authorized to include ACTS in their service to subscribers. The relationships between MSOs and their local systems vary within the cable industry. Some local franchises must carry what the MSO dictates. Others can pick and choose.

ACTS is training consultants in each state to contact the local systems owned by the first 10 MSO affiliates to ensure ACTS is carried on each local franchise. The consultants are also helping churches form local ACTS boards, which will promote the network, provide local programming and supply the cable franchises with the necessary equipment to receive ACTS via satellite.

"In order to reach our record-breaking potential, it is imperative that we secure these local agreements and get local ACTS boards moving to purchase these satellite dishes," Nichols said. "We may very well have the largest network launch in cable history next May, but it also may take several months to get all the pieces in place."

"Our consultants are emphasizing Baptist strengths in each area to convince local cable operators of the benefits of carrying ACTS," Nichols said. "The network offers them local programming, free network programming and more subscribers."

Farrell Blankenship, director of

the MBCB's Broadcast Service Department, is available for such consultation.

A survey of seven cities indicated 14 percent of residents not receiving cable would subscribe if ACTS were offered. That same survey showed 85 percent of residents would like to see ACTS offered on their local cable system.

ACTS will unveil its strategy to the rest of the cable industry during the Western Cable Show in Anaheim, Calif., Dec. 13-15, Dixon said. The charter MSO affiliates will be announced during a news conference and reception Dec. 13.

ACTS strategists also will use the trade show to enlist other MSO affiliates, as well as independent cable operators. Dixon said ACTS hopes to add the potential of another eight million homes through future MSO agreements.

ACTS will use a 20- by 40-foot exhibit to tell the network's story at the Western Cable Show. The display was created by Los Angeles master designer Darrel Howe, whose architectural and design work has been featured in "Time," "Life," "People," and "Home Magazine." Howe is donating his time and much of the material for the exhibit.

(Warner writes for the Radio-Television Commission.)

First, Vicksburg plans children's choirs workshop

Mabel Stewart Boyter will be at First Church, Vicksburg, for a mid-winter children's choirs' workshop on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Jan. 26, 27, and 28.

Mrs. Boyter is a specialist in music education and children's choirs. An author, lecturer, and director of festivals and seminars, she has worked with children's choirs for over 40 years.

The Thursday night session will be from 5:30 until 9 p.m. This session will include a lecture, a demonstration with five and six year old children and a discussion period. The Friday night session will, also, begin at 5:30 and conclude at 9 p.m.

A demonstration choir of seven and eight year old children will be included in this session. The Saturday session will begin at 9 and conclude at 3 p.m. Mrs. Boyter will work with three different age groups during this time: five and six year olds, seven and eight year olds, and nine through twelve year olds. Supper will be served Thursday and Friday nights. A luncheon is planned for the Saturday session.

A registration fee of \$20.00 per church or group is required. For further information, contact Gary Gregg or Frances Hassell, First Baptist Church, 1607 Cherry Street, Vicksburg, Miss. 39180.



Walnut Grove in top 10

WALNUT GROVE CHURCH, Leake County, placed in the top 10 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention, in per capita gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, 1983: Jerry Pitts, pastor, left, presented a certificate to the WMU director, Mrs. Morris Rogers, from William Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board. The church gave \$2,581 to the home missions offering.

Drugs, alcohol subject of McComb meet

Several Baptist churches in the McComb area are coordinating a youth conference on Drugs/Alcohol/Youth to be presented Jan. 7, at First Church, Summit.

Darwin Stiles, adolescent coordinator for Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Chemical Dependency Center in Jackson, along with several youths who have or are presently undergoing treatment at the Center will present the program at the conference.

Small group presentations, which lend themselves to more personal involvement, are planned for the expected 150 McComb area youths attending the conference.

Jerry Weber, associate pastor and youth director at South McComb Church and association youth director for Pike County, is coordinator for the conference.

Americans United enters school religious meet case

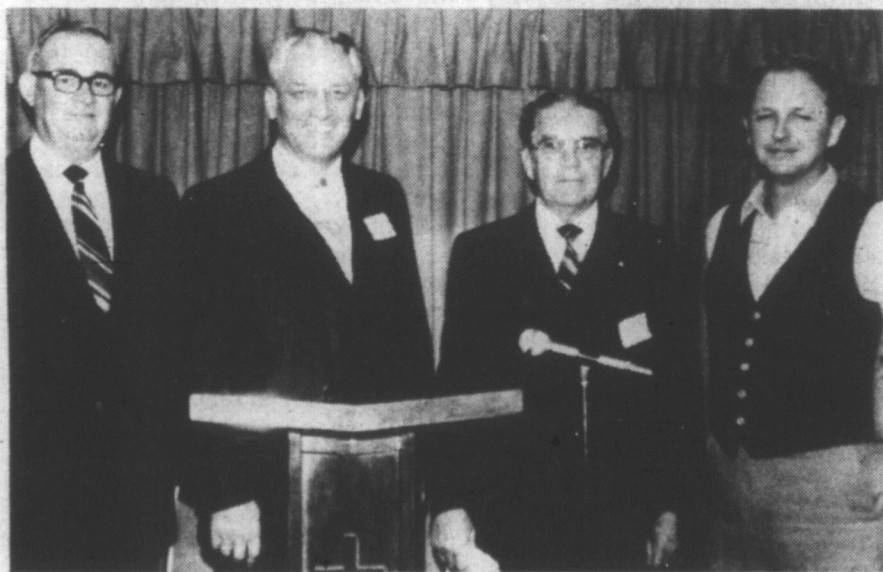
WASHINGTON (BP)—Americans United for Separation of Church and State has entered a federal court dispute over government-sponsored religious meetings in Oklahoma public schools.

"The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed the role of parents in deciding what religious values should or should not be imparted to their children" said the Americans United brief. "Under a government where the state is prohibited from engaging in the religious instruction of its young people, spiritual needs can only be met by the parents and

their freely chosen churches."

Americans United stated that the Little Axe, Okla. school district had unconstitutionally sponsored religious activities. Two mothers, JoAnn Bell and Lucille McCord, objected to the practices. After failing to convince the school board to halt the religious services, they filed suit in federal district court.

The court in March banned the services but suggested that a new school policy on religious activities was constitutional. The decision has been appealed to the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.



Mississippi chaplains' officers

Officers for the Mississippi Chaplains' association for 1984 include, from left, Robert Jones, chaplain at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, secretary; J. C. Renfro, director of missions for Rankin County, president; Nolan Brister, retired chaplain at the VA Hospital, editor; and James Street, pastor of First Church, Cleveland, vice president.

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Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

Need courage to enter '84?

Anybody need a dose of courage to begin a new year? Ask Verneda Leach. She has plenty to share. In fact, when life handed her a lemon, she made lemonade—enough to swim in. I'm indebted to Dr. Foy Rogers, who first told me her story. Her right arm is gone, but handicapped she is not.

On an incredibly bright October day I drove to her house south of Brandon in Rankin County. She was helping her husband, Bill, water their flourishing turnip patch. Then, standing by a yellow sycamore, she said:

"I was alone in one of our chicken houses—it was January, 12 years ago, and I had on boots. My feet got tangled, and when I reached out to steady myself, the feeder chain caught my right hand. Jerked to my knees, I heard a voice say, 'Stand up.' When I did, my arm broke completely off (but if I hadn't stood, I'd have been pulled into the machine). I looked and saw only a short piece of bone sticking out of my shoulder. Rushing for the door, I heard footsteps behind me, and a voice, 'Don't run. Be calm. You'll be all right.' God was there. I heard him speak.

"Outside, I locked the door, and then walked four chicken houses away, to my husband. He nearly passed out when he saw me. On the way to the doctor, he would speed up and I'd say, 'Slow down. I'll be all right.' I could see Jesus beside me. Doctors were shocked at how little I was bleeding."

Years later, at age 73, no longer in the chicken business, she stood talking to me. "There's no doubt in my mind that the Lord kept me to let me be a better witness for him and to his power, to show what you can do when you let self go and let God have his way." She has given her testimony in many churches across the state.

Last year she taught the youth Bible study (on Hosea) at Cato Church, where she and her husband are members and former Sunday School teachers. The year before that, she told her story to the boys she taught in Vacation Bible School; three of them afterward made professions of faith.

In therapy she learned to use her left hand and how to balance herself and walk erect. A few months after the accident, Bill bought her a new car. She backed it into a ditch. Then, she recalls, "I said, 'Lord, I don't want this thing to beat me. Get me out of this ditch.'" She drove out, drove to Puckett, and has been driving wherever she pleased since.

And that's not all. Her left thumb is green. She said she can just throw a plant out into the yard and it will sprout—and I believe it. Her place is nothing but a flower garden—and she set them out—chrysanthemums, daisies, hibiscus (she used 1 lb of ammonia to 1 qt of water in a 10-inch pot, and that geranium bloomed like crazy). She promised to root me a pink double hibiscus. Many churches

have used her flower arrangements—Cato, Rock Hill, Walker Hill

No self-pity shows. With one hand, and lots of enthusiasm and determination and cheerful optimism, she cooks, sews, gardens, cans, even makes buttonholes (you ought to see the yellow Easter suit she made for herself last spring), irons—anything she tries.

For a while after the accident her voice was trembly and she lost her ability to sing. One day she was singing to herself, real low, when she heard a voice say "Sing out loud!" She did—and found her voice restored.

Born in Rankin County, she met Bill Leach, an Alabamian, when she was studying at Draughton's Business College in Memphis. "We've been married 51 years," she said, "and loved every minute of it!"

The Leaches' daughter, Vivian Stevens, and her husband, Lennis, and her children, Brian, Damon, and Paige, attend Rock Hill Church (across the road from Dr. Rogers' house). Their son, Billy, and his wife, Nannette, and children, Tammy, Vickie, and Jeff, go to Parkhill Church, Jackson. Tammy, 17, has not missed Sunday School since she was six weeks old.

Bill Leach has quite a story himself. His wife has no corner on the courage in that family. A couple of years before her accident, he was run over by a tractor and so badly mangled that the doctor didn't even sew him up, but said, "I've done all I can do. Get your affairs in order."

"I'll take it up higher, to the Big Doctor." In a few days he told the doctor to get him an exercise bar.

"What for?"

"I'll show you." He managed to push his feet against the foot of the bed and pull up by his arms, a little more each day. By the 16th day he sat up on the side of the bed. The patient next to him at the V.A. Hospital said, "Man, what are you doing?"

Book Reviews

THE CHILD'S STORY BIBLE, by Catherine F. Vos; Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 255 Jefferson Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, Mich. 49503; 432 pages; cloth, \$14.95.

This book was originally published in 1934, and this is a special 50th anniversary edition. The text has been revised recently in an effort to make it as understandable as possible by children of the present. The illustrations are the same as those that first appeared 50 years ago. The pictures are full-page size in full color. The stories are designed to carry the young reader through the Bible and are broken into Old Testament and New Testament sections.—DTM



Bill and Verneda Leach

"I'm going to walk tomorrow."

The doctor said, "If you are that crazy, go ahead." And he did. Fellow patients hollered for the nurse to come stop him. But he walked.

While in the hospital he passed some of his courage on to others. From the room next door he heard a man (with cancer) cursing, and crying out words of bitterness toward God. He knew this man to be a professing Christian and a church leader.

As soon as he got a chance, Bill talked to the man and said, "Job had more to fuss about than you, but he didn't turn against God. Satan is working on you. You better straighten yourself out and call that doctor to come operate on you!" That night all was quiet next door, for the man was praying. Next morning he went into surgery, and today he is still living.

Another man who'd also been in an accident with a tractor, had given up and was still lying in the hospital bed after many months. Bill kept needing him until he got so mad he walked on crutches to show Bill he could do it—and before long, he left the hospital. Bill got well, got sewed up, and got on his tractor and drove it again.

And the doctor declared, "You were going to get the Big Doctor. Well, he came to see you in a big way!"

Through their 51 years together, Bill and Verneda have been through some good times and some bad. For this new year and for every year, they have adopted as their motto: "If God be for you, nobody can be against you!"

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Letters to the Editor

Deaconesses

Editor:

In response to recent letters concerning women, it is obvious that many Baptists today do not know their Baptist history. Ever since there have been Baptists, there have been women deaconesses. Check into Baptist history—it might surprise you.

There are some who do not understand that when the Bible speaks of "man," it refers to "mankind," which includes women. The Bible says there is no male or female, but that we are all one in Christ (Galatians 3:28).

Frankly, I'm a little tired of folks taking one verse literally and ignoring others. We can't just pick and choose what we will or will not take literally. If we are going to do that, according to the Bible, sin came into the world through a man, not a woman (Romans 5:12 KJV). We should all pluck out our eyes and cut off our arms, if we take every word literally. I don't see many people in churches today obeying that verse.

If women should be silent church, then we'll stop playing organs and pianos, stop singing in choirs, stop reading responsive stop praying aloud, stop teaching classes—in short, the church would be made up of only men. How silly Christ never meant it to be that way.

Unfortunately, there are some who believe that because one Christian believes differently from them, that person is not a Christian. That God that only He will be the judge of that question. According to my Bible (King James version or any other equally good version), being a Christian means acceptance of Christ Lord and Savior of one's life—a obedience to His will. It does not mean that one must interpret scripture in exactly the same manner as the next Christian.

No, I'm not going to hell and God's judgment is not being rained down upon me. I'm a very active, happy pastor's wife.

Mrs. Rita W. Langston
Alton, Missouri

Gifts large and small send for new WMU building

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—From the \$40,000 pledge made by a local business to \$1 given anonymously, officers of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC are receiving a variety of gifts for the relocation of national headquarters in Birmingham, Ala.

As of Oct. 21, \$50,280.07 in gifts and pledges had been given.

The WMU Executive Board voted at the project's beginning not to conduct a formal fund raising campaign. "WMU has done a really good job collecting money for other people—giving is unbelievable for home and foreign missions, but we find it very difficult to ask for ourselves."

Much of the relocation costs will be covered by money from the sale of WMU's present building. The savings begun under the administration of past national executive director Alma Hunt will also be used. Still, WMU may have to borrow approximately \$3 million in order to meet the expense by the projected June, 1984 move-in date.

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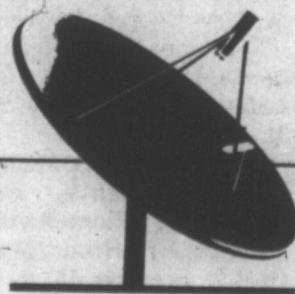
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BROADMAN

Southern Baptists expected to top 14 million in 1983

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The number of Southern Baptists will top 14 million in 1983 and all five church programs will show enrollment increases, according to 1983 statistical projections released for the denomination.

The only area predicted to decrease from last year is baptisms. A projected decrease of 3.7 percent, or 15,227 would make the total 396,327. This would be the first time baptisms have dropped below 400,000 since 1979.

Gains ranging from 1.7 percent to 7.5 percent are projected for Sunday School, Church Training, Church Music, Brotherhood, and Woman's Missionary Union.

The amount of money reported for mission expenditures in 1983 exceeded \$500 million for the first time, with an increase of almost \$43 million, or 8.6 percent, bringing the projected 1983 total to nearly \$529 million.

Total receipts for the denomination had a matching 8.6 percent increase projected for 1983, making the new total more than \$3.38 billion. The percentage increases for mission expenditures and total receipts are lower than in previous years, but inflation also has been considerably lower than in the last few years.

Sunday School, the denomination's largest church program, is projected to have a 2.1 percent or 161,251 increase for 1983, which makes the total ongoing enrollment 7,839,855. This increase is the fourth consecutive increase for the Bible study program and the largest gain since 1976.

The projected Church Training increase of 2.4 percent, or 46,784,

makes the total enrollment for the program 1.99 million. This also is the fourth consecutive increase for Church Training.

Church Music enrollment is projected to increase for the 18th consecutive year. The music enrollment is predicted to go up by 1.7 percent, or 27,791, to a total of 1.66 million.

Ongoing enrollment for Woman's Missionary Union is projected to increase in 1983 by 2.3 percent, or 26,433, to a new total of 1,175,699. This is the fourth consecutive year for an increase in WMU enrollment.

Brotherhood enrollment is expected to increase by 7.5 percent in 1983, to a new total of 569,365, an increase of almost 40,000. This is the fifth gain in a row for Brotherhood and the largest increase since 1965. The form for reporting Brotherhood enrollment was changed this year to

allow concurrent enrollment of persons in two or more of the four Baptist men's categories.

The church membership total for 1983 is predicted to reach 14,208,226, an increase of 1.5 percent, or more than 209,000. The only decrease in church membership in the Southern Baptist Convention in the last century was in 1926.

Statistical projections for the denomination are based on information from 26,039 Uniform Church Letters which were among the earliest received in the research services department of the Sunday School Board. Normal statistical error could cause the projections to differ slightly in either direction. The final 1983 denominational statistics will be released in February 1984.

(Jim Lowry writes for the Sunday School Board.)

Statistical projections

	1982 Total	Estimated 1982-1983 % Change	Estimated 1982-1983 Numerical Change	Estimated 1983 Total
Baptisms	411,554	-3.7	-15,227	396,327
Church Membership	13,998,252	1.5	209,974	14,208,226
Ongoing Sunday School enrollment	7,678,604	2.1	161,251	7,839,855
Church Training enrollment	1,949,348	2.4	46,784	1,996,132
Ongoing Church Music enrollment	1,634,774	1.7	27,791	1,662,565
Ongoing WMU enrollment	1,149,266	2.3	26,433	1,175,699
Ongoing Brotherhood enrollment	529,642	7.5	39,723	569,365
Mission Expenditures	\$ 486,935,086	8.6	\$ 41,876,417	\$ 528,811,503
Total Receipts	\$3,117,387,150	8.6	\$268,095,295	\$3,385,482,445

Mississippi rates fourth in doctrine study awards

The leading churches in study course awards in the category of Church Training Leadership and Baptist Doctrine were recently reported by the Church Training Department.

During this past year Mississippi ranked fourth in the Southern Baptist Convention in Baptist Doctrine awards and fifth in Church Training Leadership awards. That was a move up closer to the top for both categories for the state. Listed are church, association, and number of awards.

Church Training Leadership: First, Pearl, Rankin, 33; First, Ellisville, Jones, 31; Mantee, Webster, 26; New Hebron, Lawrence, 25. Sunshine, Pearl, Rankin, 24; Hernando, Northwest, 23; Harmontown, Lafayette, 23; Calvary, Tupelo, Lee, 21.

Westview, Hinds/Madison, 18; Arlington Heights, Pascagoula, Jackson, 17; Plantersville, Lee, 17; Broadmoor, Hinds/Madison, 15; Gaston, Prentiss, 15.

Baptist Doctrine: Strong, River, Simpson, 124; First, Pascagoula, Jackson 82; Kreole Avenue, Jackson, 81; First, Clinton, Hinds/Madison, 74.

Friendship, Jones 73; Hebron, Montgomery 69; First, Gautier,

Jackson, 68; First, Ellisville, Jones, 68.

South Louisville, Winston, 68; Holly, Alcorn, 66; First, Amory, Monroe, 62; First, Sardis, Panola, 57.

Mexicans push jingle

MEXICO CITY—Baptists in Mexico are encouraging radio stations to broadcast a public service commercial connecting Bible reading with the "moral renovation" campaign of Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid. The commercial, which includes a jingle on the benefits of Bible reading, stresses practical moral practices illustrated in the Bible, such as setting a good example and telling the truth.

Media seminar set

NASHVILLE—Media Librarians from across the Southern Baptist Convention will meet at the Sunday School Board's church program training center, March 1-3, for a national seminar.

Registration may be made by sending a \$45 fee for conference materials and a banquet to Church Program Training Center, P. O. Box 24001, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.



Large and small can be a part of it

By Earl H. Craig, pastor
First Church, Jackson

The Cooperative Program has served the Lord well and has certainly made Baptists an envied Christian denomination in terms of its world-wide mission support.

The Cooperative Program has been important to me because I see us unifying ourselves in a mission that is so much bigger than any one of us could ever engage.

I also appreciate the answerability of those who receive Cooperative Program monies. The Southern Baptist Convention's reports each year allows us to see the budget of receipts and expenditures and helps us to have an understanding of how the money is being used.

While I may not agree with how every dollar of Cooperative Program money is spent, I have come to the conclusion that I don't always agree with how every dollar of my

church's money is spent, and I'm not always in complete agreement with how my family spends every dollar of our income.

The key for me in the Cooperative Program has been that, in an overall sense, it serves to coordinate and extend the Kingdom of God so that all our churches—large and small—can be a part of it.

Truly it is the best way to accomplish the financial plan for world missions.

(This is one in a series of testimonies from Mississippians concerning their interest and support of the Cooperative Program. 1984 is being promoted as the Year of the Cooperative Program. The testimonies were solicited by the Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.)

Tom Starkey's dental clinic opens at last in Bohicon

BOHICON, Benin (BP)—After five years of waiting, Tom Starkey is finally doing the work he went to Benin to do. He's practicing dentistry.

Starkey's dental clinic is Bohicon, Benin, opened Sept. 11 with local and regional government officials and Baptists from across the country gathered under tents outside.

After music from three churches and addresses by Starkey and fellow missionary Dutton Bonnell, a local representative of the district government cut the ribbon and Starkey swept open the clinic door with the words, "By the grace of Christ, I open this door for the people of Benin."

Starkey had waited a long time for that day. The Memphis, Tenn., dentist and his wife, Pam, a Mississippian, were appointed Southern Baptist missionaries in October 1978. But by the time they completed French and Fon language study and moved to Bohicon, where Starkey planned to build a clinic, their first term on the mission field was almost over. They spent their time in Bohicon supervising a church in nearby Abomey while missionaries Marilyn and Dutton Bonnell were on furlough.

But Starkey found time to look for a clinic site. At first the search was frustrating, but then he decided to put the Lord in complete control of the search. That done, he put the word out he wanted to buy land. Before long he had a site just the right size on one of Bohicon's major roads. It even had electrical and water hookups.

After a furlough in the States, the Starkeys returned to Benin for a term that "has just seen one answered prayer after another," says fellow

missionary Camela Bartels.

Although construction projects usually move slowly in West Africa, Starkey found a builder who began work quickly. The man is now building the Starkeys a concrete-block home within walking distance of the clinic.

During their first term, Pam Starkey repeatedly asked the Lord to show her where to start women's work. But nothing came of her prayer. When she returned, she continued praying. Soon several young women came to her, asking for a Bible study. Some have become Christians.

Also during their first term, Starkey made a lot of evangelistic contacts, but saw few results. Within three months of arriving back in Benin, he baptized six new Christians. And he preached the service in Fon, "quite a major accomplishment language wise," says Bartels, who adds Starkey's command of the language will be invaluable to his dental work.

Now his clinic is open, Starkey plans to continue evangelism through a film and cassette ministry, and he's equipped the waiting room with a black board for regular Bible studies.

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Four churches rank high in study awards

NASHVILLE—Four Mississippi churches were in the top 25 churches, in the denomination in church study course award during the 1982-83 year, according to recently released statistics.

First Church, Ellisville, was fifth in church study course awards with a total of 1,065; Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo, eighth, 972; Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, 10th, 927; and Union Baptist Church, Picayune, 25th, 748.

Hinds-Madison Association ranked 13th in the denomination for associations earning church study course awards.

Mississippi Baptists were sixth overall in the SBC with a total of 41,250 awards earned last year, which was a 7.7 percent increase over the previous year. Florida was tops with 73,710.

A total of 17,494 churches are active in the church study course program, which is managed by the Christian development division of the Southern Baptist Convention's Sunday School Board.

U.N. ministry has home

By Patti Stephenson

NEW YORK (BP)—Nine years after it began, a Southern Baptist outreach ministry to the international diplomatic community has a home three blocks from the United Nations.

Offices for Christian Ministries to the United Nations Community, directed by Home Mission Board missionary Elias Golonka, were dedicated Nov. 29. The headquarters, rented by the HMB, provide space for Bible studies and fellowship with U.N. personnel, English classes and counseling, Golonka explained.

Previously, the ministry was housed in the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association office, three miles from the U.N. The new location will lessen the staff's difficulty with commuting and parking and is more accessible to U.N. personnel, according to Wallace Buckner, HMB director of the multiethnic ministries department.

Present for the ceremony, along with SBC leaders and U.N. visitors, were 11 members of River Oaks Baptist Church in Houston, which donated furnishings worth \$8,000 for the office.

A luncheon honoring the Texas group and Golonka was held Nov. 28 in the U.N. diplomats' dining room. Plaques of appreciation were given to River Oaks Pastor Doug Tipps by Oscar Romo, HMB language missions director, and to Golonka by Gerald Palmer, HMB vice president of missions. Tipps is a former staffer at First Church, Jackson.

Palmer noted the Houston church's participation in the ministry demonstrates the relationship between the Home Mission Board and local churches. "What we do depends on what they do, not only financially but through personal involvement," he said.

Palmer also lauded Golonka's "commitment to a dream" and noted he has "led Southern Baptists into new frontiers of ministry which will touch people around the world."

Robert Muller, assistant secretary general in the U.N. Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters, expressed appreciation for Southern Baptists' interest in ministering to the U.N. community.

"Our goal of making of all nations a holy family raises the basic questions of 'why are we on this planet? What

is the objective of humanity?' " Muller said. "In seeking answers, we must not only develop our knowledge of science but also nurture the heart and learn how to get along with each other."

The dedication was highlighted by scripture readings in six languages—English, Spanish, Italian, Hindi, Polish and Russian. Golonka described the biblical admonition to serve as "ambassadors for Christ" as the ministry's mandate.

The ministry's staff reaches out to the U.N.'s 35,000 personnel from 158 member states primarily through "friendship evangelism," Golonka explained. He and his wife, Nancy, often open their home to U.N. personnel and their families.

Joanne Jones, serving as a HMB US-2er, directs the ministry's English classes for members of diplomats' families and other internationals. Weekly Bible study is also held at the ministry center.

Scriptures distribution is another strong aspect of the ministry, Golonka noted. "We very often get requests from U.N. translators for Bibles in their own languages," he explained. "No one has ever refused our offer of a free Bible."

Because U.N. personnel "have the same problems as other people do," Golonka counsels those struggling with personal and family problems. He also finds help for families with crisis needs, usually from area churches.

The River Oaks congregation's involvement in the U.N. ministry "has made us aware of the need to reach out to the international community wherever we are," Tipps said. "Our laypersons have seen how business travel provides an opportunity to represent Jesus Christ as they go."

The church has plans to forge ties with the 47 consulates in Houston and has begun recruiting members to serve as hosts for international students. Members already support English as a second language classes for 60 internationals.

"We don't want this to be a one-shot effort but something that will spill over to other Southern Baptist churches as well," Tipps said.

(Patti Stephenson writes for the Home Mission Board.)

Foreign Board opposes ambassador to Vatican

By Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists' Foreign Mission Board Dec. 13 urged President Reagan not to appoint an ambassador to the Vatican.

Establishing full diplomatic relations with the Vatican could blur or compromise Baptist missionary witness in Roman Catholic countries, the resolution said, and potentially cause animosity or feelings of betrayal in areas "that may be non-Catholic in orientation."

Board members took the action after news reports said President Reagan plans to name William A. Wilson as U.S. ambassador to the Vatican.

Other actions at the December board meeting included beginning work in Nepal as the 102nd country or territory where Southern Baptists have missionaries, transferring a veteran Nigerian missionary couple to start work early next year in Sierra Leone on Africa's western coast, and establishing fraternal relations with the New Zealand Baptist Union.

Sidney and Alwilda Reber, former missionaries to Singapore-Malaysia, will spend two years in an auxiliary service assignment as the board's first representatives working with a New Zealand Baptist church to help start a new congregation. Reber retires Jan. 31 as the board's vice-president for management services.

Bill Wakefield, director for work in South and Southeast Asia, noted that a strong Baptist Union exists in New Zealand and said the board is grateful for the "opportunity to link hands" with fellow Baptists.

Bert and Ruth Dyson, Nigerian missionaries who spearheaded evangelistic literacy efforts in that country, will be transferred to Sierra Leone effective Feb. 1. This country

will be counted next year as the board's 103rd area of work.

The board also named 20 new missionaries at a service in Culpepper, Va., and approved reappointment of two couples. These bring the year's career and associate additions to 207, plus 25 appointees. Total additions to the missionary force this year are 359, compared to a record 406 in 1982. Including the last appointments and resignations, Southern Baptists have 3,364 foreign missionaries.

Qualifications for missionary candidates also received approval. Most of the policies have been in effect for a number of years, but this was the first time all had been pulled together in a comprehensive statement.

The action reaffirmed a long-standing policy that missionary candidates whose jobs require a seminary degree must be graduates of a Southern Baptist seminary or have earned a degree from an accredited seminary followed by a year of study at one of the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries.

Some Southern Baptists have questioned this policy, saying it puts undue hardship on those who graduate from other accredited seminaries.

The ages for career appointment now are 24 to 45, with candidates for missionary associates (who serve four-year, renewable terms) eligible from ages 35 to 60.

Board members also appropriated \$2 million from current funds to meet urgent capital needs overseas that went unmet when the 1982 Lottie Moon offering fell almost \$4 million short of its \$58 million goal.

Hunger and relief funds released in October and November totaled \$859,814.

(Stanley is news director for The Foreign Mission Board.)

Seminary expands

TAIPEI, Taiwan—A seven-story dormitory under construction at Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary is being used as a witness for Christ. Taiwanese customarily start building construction with a "bai bai" (worship), offering food sacrifices, burning incense to the traditional gods and praying for protection of the construction workers.

Instead, seminary President John Chang and the entire student body held a Christian service at the dormitory site. They sang, read Scripture and prayed for the safety and salvation of the workers. The dormitory, Hunker Hall, is named for retiring Southern Baptist missionary Carl Hunker.

Florida elects editor

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—Jack E. Brymer, managing editor of the Alabama Baptist since 1967, has been elected editor of the Florida Baptist Witness, news-journal of the Florida Baptist Convention.

Brymer succeeds Edgar R. Cooper March 1, 1984, as editor of the 97,000 circulation weekly publication. Cooper, editor since January 1971, will retire at the end of February.



Mississippi Baptist activities

Jan. 8 Witness Commitment Day (EVAN Emphasis)
Jan. 9 Celebrate Family Rally; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; FBC, Hattiesburg (CT)
Jan. 10 Celebrate Family Rally; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; FBC, Batesville (CT)

HMB, WMU, Brotherhood merge mission efforts

By Patti Stephenson

ATLANTA (BP)—Leaders of state Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood, and missions directors have pledged full support for an agreement aimed at merging mission action efforts.

The agreement, which was formally signed in February, calls for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, WMU, and Brotherhood to work together in providing mission action materials and expertise for churches.

Specifically, the agreement assigns the primary responsibility for promoting and recruiting volunteers for mission action to Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood and calls on the HMB to provide materials and expertise for training.

It also assigns the responsibility for surveying mission needs to the church missions committee and the associational missions development program (associational missions

committee), and appoints these committees as backup to WMU and Brotherhood in responding to mission needs.

Former agreements did not prevent duplication of resources by the three organizations, resulting in unnecessary expense and creating a fragmented approach to missions, explained Robert Banks, HMB vice president of administration. "Our new approach will be more integrated and reflects a definite intent to be better stewards of funds, personnel and resources."

Banks reported new HMB mission action resources will be produced beginning in 1984 and will be sold through Baptist Book Stores. Both WMU and Brotherhood Commission will continue to produce materials for their own organizational projects, according to the agreement.

(Patti Stephenson writes for the Home Mission Board.)

Over 65? Here's important news about Medicare:

Medicare only pays an average of 45% of your total health bill.

That may seem hard to believe, but according to the U.S. Senate's Special Committee On Aging, Medicare only paid those of you over age 65, an average of 45% of your total health care bill in 1980. That left you to pay the remaining 55%. *World Insurance Company's Medicare Supplement Policy (A2480) can help you pay many of the costs not covered by Medicare. Let me take a few minutes of your time to explain the many features of World's Medicare Supplement Policy.

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*Source: Special Committee On Aging, U.S. Senate, April 1982.

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National Enquirer readers request Bible study helps

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Advertising a Bible study magazine in the *National Enquirer* may sound strange, but it begins to make sense if a key target audience of the magazine is unchurched people.

The Home Bible Study Guide, a free monthly publication of the Baptist Sunday School Board, was advertised in the September issues of the weekly newspaper which tends to cover the seamier sides of the entertainment industry and claims to have the "largest circulation of any paper in America."

The ad, which appeared in the "Personals" classified advertisement column, generated letters from 400 persons in the United States, Canada and the West Indies, requesting the guide.

The guide includes four Bible study lessons in each issue and readers may answer questions about the lessons, mail in response cards to be graded, and receive the correct answers.

D. Lewis White, supervisor of the church programs and services special ministries unit, said the ad, a test project, was placed in the "Personals" column because "we figured more persons would read it there."

"The primary audiences of Home Bible Study are church members not enrolled in Sunday School and unchurched people," said White. "I don't believe many unchurched people are likely to be reached through ads in religious publications."

Approximately 97,000 persons are active members of Home Bible Study, according to White.



N.O. seminary gives degrees

Four Mississippi doctoral students received degrees during December graduation ceremonies at New Orleans Seminary. Pictured with Landrum P. Leavell, president of the seminary, prior to graduation exercises are (left to right) William Spears, Greenville, doctor of ministry; Edwin John Deuschle, pastor of Trinity, Fulton, doctor of ministry; Leavell; Steven Franklin Echols, doctor of theology; and James E. M. Simeon, doctor of theology. These students were joined by more than 110 others who received degrees during mid-year exercises at the seminary. Another Mississippian, William Larry Hoffer, Poplarville native, received the master of church music degree.

Staff Changes

Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, has called Bill Fuller as pastor, effective Jan. 8. He comes from First Church, Center, Tex. He is a native of Louisiana; he received the bachelor of arts degree from Louisiana Baptist College and master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Currently he is serving as president of the Center Area Ministerial Alliance in Texas.

Mike Harland has resigned as minister of music at Calvary Church, Cleveland, and has taken a similar position with Parkview Church, Greenville.

Lavon "Buddy" Smith is the new pastor of the East Salem Church in Greene County. He has served in West Salem Church as deacon.



Norris

David Norris has resigned the pastorate of Bethel Church, Woodland, and has become pastor of Wayside Church, Scobey, in Yellowstone County.

Raiford Bullock has been named minister of music of Shiloh Church (Alcorn). A graduate of Blue Mountain College, he has served churches in Mississippi and Tennessee. He, his wife, and three children came to Shiloh Nov. 27 from First Church, Middleton, Tenn.

H. B. Vinson has resigned at Poplar Creek Nations in Montgomery County after serving for 22 years as pastor. He is available for pulpit supply and may be addressed at 208 South Union, Winona, Miss. 38967.

Three Parkways lend pastors for commentaries

A new group of writers of the Sunday School lesson commentaries for the *Baptist Record* began their contributions this week. Each is the pastor of a Parkway church in the state.



Buckley

Bill Causey, pastor, Parkway Church, Jackson, is writing on the Bible Book series.

Gerald Buckley, pastor, Parkway Church, Natchez, is doing the Life and Work commentaries. Bob Shirley, pastor, Parkway Church, Tupelo, is commenting on the Uniform lessons.

Causey, a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, was born in Greenville, Miss. and was graduated from Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. Mississippi College conferred on him an honorary doctor of divinity degree. He moved to Jackson from the pastorate of Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian.

Causey has contributed articles to denominational publications, taught Old Testament in Seminary Extension, and served as trustee for Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and Mississippi Baptist Seminary. He and his wife, Charlotte Rose, have three children.

Buckley, Hattiesburg native, was graduated from Mississippi College and Southeastern Seminary. His former pastorates include Madden Church, Piney Grove Church, Gretna, Va.; and West Heights Church, Pontotoc. He has served on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He and his wife, Billie Jean, have two sons.

During college years, Buckley was a sports writer for the *Jackson Daily News*.

Shirley, pastor at Parkway, Tupelo, since 1956, was born at DeSoto, Miss. He is a graduate of Mercer University, and New Orleans

Seminary. Before 1956, he served



Causey



Shirley

pastorates in Georgia and Waltham County, Miss. He has served on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and as trustee of Mississippi Baptist Seminary. Cartoons by Shirley have been published in the *Baptist Record*. He and his wife, Lanelda, have a daughter and a son.

Wake Forest drive

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. (BP) — Wake Forest University has raised over \$20 million in a nationwide campaign, exceeding the drive's goal by more than \$2.5 million.

The drive, the Sesquicentennial Campaign, is scheduled to end in 1984, the 150th anniversary of the school's founding.

Names in the News



TISH FERGUSON, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Ferguson of Winona, recently received her 18-year perfect attendance pin for Sunday School. Now a freshman at Mississippi State University, she has not missed Sunday School since she was three weeks old. Jerry W. Mixon, pastor of First Church, Winona, presented the pin.

Squire Parsons will be in concert at Forest Hill Church, Jackson, on Thursday, Jan. 5, at 7:30 p.m. A composer and soloist, Squire has sung with nationally known groups. There will be no admission charge. However, a love offering will be taken.

Immanuel Church, Cleveland, hosted a reception in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Marion on Sunday night, Dec. 18, after the Christmas music program. Marion, retired pastor of Clarksdale Church, has served as interim pastor of Immanuel Church since June. His tenure was completed January 1. He is available to serve as interim for another church.

Charles Fowler was recently ordained to the ministry in a joint service held by Tate Street Church, Corinth, and Ramer (Tenn.) Church. During the service, held at Tate Street, Tommy Wilder, pastor of Ramer Church, gave the charge to the church. Mike Burczynski, pastor of Tate Street Church, gave the charge to the candidate. Fowler is serving as minister of music at Ramer.

Missionary News

David and Gloria Glaze, missionaries to Argentina, have completed language study and arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, Argentina). Son of Jack and Jean Glaze of Clinton, former missionaries to Argentina, he was born in Louisville, Ky. The former Gloria Marler, daughter of missionaries to Guam, she was born in Tylertown, Miss.

Philip and Laura Dunaway, missionaries to Brazil, have completed language study and may be addressed at Caixa Postal 118, 90000 Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil. They are natives of Mississippi. He was born in Jackson and considers Hattiesburg his hometown. She is the former Laura Lindley of Meridian.

James and Charlotte Watts, missionaries to Italy, have returned to the field (address: Via Susini 6, Florence, Italy). They are natives of Mississippi and both grew up in Pascagoula.

Rachel DuBard, missionary associate to Liberia, has arrived in the States for furlough (address: Rt. 1, Box 87, Carrollton, Miss. 38917). A native of Mississippi, she was born in Carroll County.

Ira Alley, retired home missionary who lives in Calhoun County and is a member of Oldtown Church, is leaving this week for Alaska, where he plans to serve as interim pastor at First Baptist Church, Nome, for five months.

David E. Satterwhite, pastor, Mount Olive Church, Coila, (Carroll) completed all requirements for the Doctor of Ministry degree Dec. 6, from International Bible Institute and Seminary, Orlando, Fla. He did his thesis on "Theological Reflections of the Pastoral Ministry."

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Southern Baptist chaplains recount invasion experience

FORT BRAGG, N. C. (BP)—When an emergency alert sounded at 7 p.m. Oct. 24, most of the United States Army soldiers who scattered to prepare for immediate troop deployment assumed it was just another practice alert.

"When we saw the live ammunition being loaded onto the aircraft, we knew this wasn't a game," said Army Chaplain Capt. William Merrifield. "By 1 a.m., we knew it was real."

Merrifield, chaplain for the Army's 2nd battalion of the 325th Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division, was one of three Southern Baptist chaplains who followed the Rangers into Grenada as part of the United States' invasion forces.

"The Rangers had jumped into Grenada at 500 feet with no reserve parachutes and secured the air field," said Capt. Robert "Knox" Herndon, 2nd Brigade chaplain of the 82nd Airborne Division. "The Communists had laid wire 100 meters across the runway so planes couldn't land," he added.

"We knew the Rangers were being shot at and dying. They sent us a message: 'Please hurry,' and we were trying to get there to help," explained 1st Lt. John Owings, chaplain of the 3rd battalion of the 325th Infantry.

"Four times we tried to land at the Grenada runway and were prevented by enemy fire," said Owings. "After we finally landed, I spent the night in the hills with the young paratroopers. I slept on the ground under a poncho—never at the same place twice—and was usually awakened by being rained on. Whatever they did, I

did. It was rough, but a blessing," Owings observed about his first combat experience.

The chaplains were constantly being called upon to pray—from commanding officers at secret clearance briefings and on the planes bound for Grenada, to battlefield requests by soldiers and civilians. "The Bible says to pray for our enemies," Merrifield maintained, "and even my wounded soldiers took time to pray for the families of the killed Cuban soldiers."

"It was a fantastic opportunity for ministry," Merrifield continued. "My guys took some pretty heavy hits when we went in and death wasn't something off in the distance. Most of them had never had to face the finality of death before. They were asking for Bibles—I went in with 181 New Testaments and brought less than 31 back—and there was a burst of rededications to God," he concluded.

Herndon used a "liberated Cuban vehicle" to carry hundreds of sheets of paper and envelopes to American soldiers in the field for writing home. "I waited around about 30 minutes and then collected the letters. Many of the soldiers had been writing home on cardboard from their C-rations," he said.

"A lot of the civilians were initially nervous and afraid about our being there because they had been so brutally victimized by the Cubans," Owings said. A family with eight children was under house arrest with no water or food, he explained. "And we hid 65 civilians in an attic of a barn to protect them from Cubans who would

slip back in and persecute them at night," he added.

"When one lady was shot in the leg by snipers we had the opportunity to talk to some of the civilians as we treated her and prepared to evacuate her. We explained we were there to protect them," Owings said.

"They began to turn in the Cubans right and left and tell us where the weapons were that had been brought in secretly during the curfew time when all the electricity was also cut off," added Herndon.

Herndon indicated he saw 50 Cuban armored personnel carriers with guns, and church officials had been marked for elimination by the Communists. "We went in in the nick of time," he said, "otherwise it would've been a different story."

All the churches had been closed by the Communists for a month, according to the chaplains, and the first thing the civilians did was to reopen them. "The major asked me to conduct a small service and the Grenadians gathered around. They were so thankful they could open their churches," Merrifield said.

"All afternoon the church bells were ringing," recalled Owings. "The people kept coming up to us saying, 'God bless you. God bless America. Thank you for being here.'"

(Beverly Scheland writes for the Home Mission Board.)

Young ministers' wives retreat Jan. 20-21 at Garaywa

The thirteenth annual Young Ministers' Wives Retreat is scheduled for Friday night and Saturday, Jan. 20-21, at Camp Garaywa.

This complimentary retreat, sponsored by Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, is designed for women, age 40 and under, who are wives of pastors, staff ministers, and ministerial students.

Program guests for the retreat include Mrs. Tom Thurman, missionary to Bangladesh; Beverly McMillan, Jackson gynecologist and obstetrician; and Mrs. Landrum



Thurman



Leavell

Levell, wife of the president of New Orleans Seminary.

The retreat will begin at 5:30 on Friday and conclude shortly after noon on Saturday.

Though there is no cost, it is necessary to have reservations. To make reservations, contact the WMU Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Off The Record

Tommy had told a falsehood, so the shocked grandmother took him on her knee and explained the consequences of lying.

"A tall, mean man with red fiery eyes and sharp horns grabs little boys who tell lies," she said. "He takes them to Mars where they have to work hard in a deep hole for fifty years. Now, you won't tell any stories again, will you, Tommy?"

"No, Grandma," Tommy replied. "You tell 'em better than I do."

Returning to his stadium seat, popcorn in hand, a rather obese football fan leaned over and asked a woman seated on the aisle, "Did I step on your feet when I went out?"

"Well," said the woman with a smile, ready to accept his apology, "as a matter of fact, you did."

"Good," exclaimed the portly one, squeezing past her. "This is the right row, then."

Devotional

"Redeem the time"

By Earl Kelly, executive secretary Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
"Redeem the time because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16)

"Redeeming the time" is a call to acquire time redemptively. How often, before we are aware of it, do we become absorbed in the distracting cares and interests of everyday experience, only to realize later that we have turned aside from the great purpose of life. Paul says we are to acquire time by foregoing the solicitations of indolence and self-indulgence. In I Corinthians 7:21-29, he speaks of the experiences of marriage, sorrow, joy, business and pleasure as providing the possibility of either acquiring or wasting time.



Kelly

In Holly Springs, Mississippi, there is an art museum that contains the greatest collection of excellent paintings by one artist in the South. All of Kate Clark's paintings are housed there. She signed her canvases with the name "Freeman Clark" because she painted at a time when women artists were not recognized. She died in the 1960s. Her brushes were laid down in 1936, the year her mother died, and she never painted another stroke. For a quarter of a century the world was robbed of her genius because she had not learned how to overcome sorrow and to acquire time redemptively.

Shakespeare once wrote, "I wasted time; now time doth waste me." And David Brainerd, who died at 29, cried, "Oh, how precious is time; and how guilty it makes me feel when I think I have trifled away and misimproved it, or neglected to fill up each part of it with beauty to the utmost of my ability and capacity."

Let us remember throughout 1984, if God doesn't have our time, he doesn't have us.

Missionaries on furlough

Missionaries on furlough in Mississippi are Tom and Gloria Thurman, Bangladesh, 416 Ford St., Columbia 39429; Hal and Lou Ann Lee, France, 4233 Carter Circle, Jackson 39209; Errol and Mary Simmons, Spain, 407 N. 38th Ave., Hattiesburg; Wayne and Florence Frederick, Guadeloupe, c/o Camp Creek Baptist Church Rt. 2, Guntown, 38849;

Rachel Dubard, Liberia, Carrollton; Charles and Indy Whitten, Canary Islands, Spain, 207 S. Washington, Starkville 39759.

Million Testaments

Texas Baptists plan to give away more than one million New Testaments to unchurched people in a one-day Scripture distribution/prospect discovery on April 8, 1984.

The New Testaments are a custom edition from the Sunday School Board which is marked to aid in witnessing and includes a list of evangelistic helps. On the back cover of the testaments is an identification of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and a space for local churches to stamp the church name and address.

Seven get degrees at Southern

Seven students from Mississippi were awarded degrees from Southern Seminary Dec. 16 in Louisville, Ky.

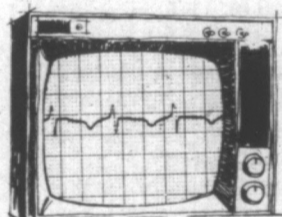
W. Henry Crouch, pastor of Providence Church, Charlotte, N.C., delivered the commencement address.

Mississippi graduates included the following:

Master of Divinity in Religious Education—Noel Rape, West Point.

Master of Religious Education—Carolyn Berry, Winona.

Master of Divinity—Gary Bunch, Starkville; Linda McComb, Hattiesburg; Donald Pounders, Iuka; Morris Thompson Jr., Jackson; Robert Canoy, Greenville.



Intensive care

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Need to meet single men

I have a request and hope you can help. For years now I have been a Christian. I am a single person and live alone. I am not dating anyone because the only people I care to date are Christians; and I have no way of meeting nice, decent men. I know and realize that dating a non-Christian is the wrong thing to do, therefore I do not want to do that.

The problem is simply that young Christians now (single) have NO WAY of meeting! Many people do not realize how lonely the single Christians are and some do not even care. G.B.

Dear G.B.: Does any church in your area have a ministry to singles beyond a Sunday School class? Why not encourage your pastor or talk to your director of missions about starting a single adult ministry? A vital program of ministry to singles will attract young men.

To be able to meet Christian young people, one must make an effort to be where they are. They are doing volunteer service in hospitals and other helping agencies or institutions. They are attending plays, sym-

phonies, and other cultural events. They are supporting sports events. Invite another girl to attend some of these with you and have a good time. Some young man, observing your enjoying an experience he is enjoying, may be attracted to you. If you display more interest in a date than the experience, he may be turned off.

To get help in starting a single's ministry, write Paul G. Jones II, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, or order from Church Materials Services, Baptist Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Ave., North, Nashville, TN. 37234, the book entitled, "How to Start a Single Adult Ministry" by Ann Smith.

Inquiries to Intensive Care are welcomed. Readers who feel the need of being in touch with Intensive Care are encouraged to write. Identities remain confidential. And though the identities of those performing this ministry have been kept confidential to this point, they are well qualified for the service they are rendering. Inquiries should be addressed to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.—Editor.

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Just for the Record



SAREPTA CHURCH won two banners at Calhoun associational M night Nov. 21, at First Church, Bruce. Jim McMillen, pastor, left, and Donald Tallant, Church Training director, right, accepted the banners. Sarepta has won the efficiency banner for the fourth consecutive year by having the largest percentage of Church Training enrollment present. The attendance banner was received for the most Church Training members present. Sarepta, said one reporter, is the first church remembered to have won both banners in the same year. "Since the beginning of the new church year, we have had five professions of faith and eight additions by letter at Sarepta," said the pastor. (Photo by Lisa Bailey).



BOLIVAR ASSOCIATION ACTEENS RECENTLY HELD A Studiaet recognition service—"Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow." Seven queens were crowned, representing four churches, and one queen-with-scepter was recognized. Left to right: Queen Amanda McClure, First Church, Boyle, George McClure, crown-bearer; Queen Tammie Kitrell, Yale Street, Cleveland, Heath Beck, crown-bearer; Queen Melanie Commander, Shaw, Mark Haik, crown-bearer; Queen Vivian Fly, First, Boyle, Casey Carr, crown-bearer; Queen Kim Collier, First, Boyle, Samantha Lamberson, crown-bearer; Queen Susie Hawkins, Trinity, Rosedale, Emily Garcia (not pictured) crown-bearer; Queen-Pam Weeks, First, Boyle, Jennifer Weeks (not pictured) crown-bearer; Queen-With-Scepter Denise Harrell, Morrison Chapel, Cleveland, Amy Buckles, scepter-bearer, Glenda Braswell is the associational Acteens director.



CO-LIN BAPTIST STUDENT UNION ADVISORY COMMITTEE recently honored the committee treasurer, Mrs. E. G. Graham. She has served as treasurer for over 25 years. The Advisory Committee presented her with a plaque. In the picture are Advisory members; Mrs. Graham; BSU director, Roy Smith; Billy Thames, Co-Lin Junior College president; and state BSU director, Jerry Merriman. Advisory Committee members are: John Hamilton, Daryl Oster, chairman, Eddie Smith, Jerril Newell, Bud Swindall and Tim Rayborn. Not pictured are Ken Stringer and Gene Erwin.

Ebenezer Church, Holmes County, showed a film on Christmas Day at 6 p.m., titled "Jesus is the Answer" and including a personal testimony by Nicky Cruz. On New Year's Day, the church showed the film, "The Cross and the Switchblade" at 6 p.m., the story of David Wilkerson's work with youths in New York's ghettos. M. L. Frost is the Ebenezer pastor.



"GOD'S BEAUTIFUL BOUQUET" was the theme of the recognition service at Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian, for Acteens and RAs. Three Acteens, Rene Langford, Lori Wilkinson, and Danielle Sansone were crowned queens. Deanne Mosley, Joy Langford, and Andrea Greer were recognized as queens-with-scepter. Award bearers were Carrie Boswell, Natalie Cobb, Jill Ethridge, Molly Litchfield, Danielle Lipscomb, and Kelly Wood.

Eighteen RA's participated in their service, with Ben Barham and Daniel Richards achieving Lad I level; Tony Richardson, Eddie Henley, David Richards, and Stephen Wilkinson, Lad II; Chris Crampton and Brian Temple, pages; John Gandy, squire; and Ryan Plunkett and J. J. Long, knight.

MC granted membership in UNISOR at Oak Ridge

Mississippi College has recently been approved for membership as a participating institution in the University Isotope Separator at Oak Ridge Program (UNISOR).

UNISOR is a consortium of 12 colleges and universities who cooperate in research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory using an isotope separator. The laboratory is located in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Two Mississippi College faculty personally involved in UNISOR research are Craig Whitlock, professor of physics, and Bill Nettles, assistant professor of physics.

One of the founding fathers, Joseph H. Hamilton, is a 1954 Mississippi College graduate and currently chairman of the UNISOR executive committee.

Whitlock plans for Mississippi College physics faculty and students to participate in experiments at the Tennessee facility approximately 3 times annually. "After completion of the experiment, the data will be brought back to the M.C. campus for extensive study. M.C.'s participation

K'ekchi hymns are recorded

COBAN, Guatemala—Hymns in the K'ekchi language were recorded on audio tape for the first time during a radio production workshop in Coban, Guatemala, in October. Media consultants David Daniell and Larry Gay of Mexico taught eight K'ekchi how to improve the quality and effectiveness of their radio program, "Christ, the Only Hope." The program is broadcast four times a week in the K'ekchi language in Guatemala City.

Parkway to host "battle" banquet

"To help churches gear up for spiritual warfare against the forces of evil in our world," Parkway



Church, Jackson, is hosting a "Battle Plan Preparation Banquet" with the theme, "Like A Mighty Army" on Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parkway gymnasium.

Reussler The guest speaker is Marc Reussler, a native Mississippian who now serves as minister of evangelism at Coral Ridge Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., where Evangelism Explosion began.

Those who go early for food, fellowship, inspiration, and training will also have a chance to see 'displays of spiritual battle plans.'

Japanese missionaries go to Indonesia

BANDUNG, Indonesia—Japanese Baptists have sent a missionary couple to start churches in Indonesia. The Asamis will study the language for a year before beginning work. One other Japanese Baptist missionary couple worked in Brazil for many years before retiring recently. Additional requests for Japanese missionaries have been received from Indonesian and Singaporean Baptists.

Brazil Baptists send more missionaries

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—In November Brazilian Baptists appointed their first missionaries to Macao, the Portuguese colony on the coast of China. They also named three new missionaries to Mozambique and seven short-term missionaries to Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay and Ecuador.

The short-termers were the second group appointed for service in a new one-year mission program. Despite extreme inflation and devaluation, Baptists also surpassed their 1983 foreign mission offering goal of 350 million cruzeiros by giving 356 million (about \$350,000). Macao is the 17th overseas field entered by Brazilian Baptist missionaries. Southern Baptist missionaries also work there.

Foundation reports record increase

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A record increase of \$5,623,135 in the assets of the Southern Baptist Foundation was reported to the directors at their annual meeting Dec. 6-7.

At the end of the agency's fiscal year Sept. 30 total assets were \$34,808,916, reflecting a 19.3 percent increase over Sept. 30, 1982.

The year also produced a record income of \$2,784,583, achieved despite sharply lower average interest rates.

Lottie Moon gifts

First Church, Vancleave, has gone over its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal for Foreign Missions for the second year in a row on a single day's offering. The goal was \$3,000.00, but on Dec. 11 the church exceeded that goal by \$615.38. Two of Vancleave's former pastors, Hal Lee and Felix Greer, are serving on foreign mission fields. Randy C. Davis is the present pastor.

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THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory November 26 - December 23

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a listing of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many gifts and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mr. Sidney Pitts
Charles Ainsworth
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Pitts
Mrs. Homes Ainsworth
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Mrs. Annie Albright
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Nathan Aldridge
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Peck Allen
First Baptist Church, Magee
John F. Anderson
Mrs. H. N. Brown
Mr. & Mrs. H. M. Kendall
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Dolores D. Case
Mrs. Faye Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Cooper
Mr. John Baringer
Mr. & Mrs. Chester W. Pratt
Bobby, Loretta, Mary Dudley & Robert
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Frances Barrett
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(The remainder of the December Gifts of Honor and Memory will be published in next week's edition.)

Uniform

What God expects

By Robert Earl Shirley, Parkway, Tupelo
Isaiah 5:1-7

During January we will be studying lessons entitled, "Themes from Isaiah 1 to 39." The first of these, last Sunday, told how the time of the prophet was a critical period in the history of Israel. They had been greatly blessed of God, but they had not responded to those blessings. They are guilty of the sins of ingratitude, self-indulgence, idolatry, and oppression of the poor. Thus God stated his case against them and is now ready to tell them what he expects of them and what they may expect from him. Our scripture references will contain words of rebuke, judgment, condemnation, invitation, assurance, grace, and love.

My professor of literature at Mercer University insisted that the most beautiful words ever written were those from the lips of Isaiah, and I have never doubted his claim. To make the words of this chapter even more appealing, the prophet cast them in the form of a song. His message will not be one that the nation wants to hear, so he must first gain their attention. Thus, he uses a unique form of both composition and delivery.

A parable (5:1-3). With all of the beauty and clarity of those from the lips of Jesus, Isaiah delivered this Old Testament parable to the people of Jerusalem and Judah. Addressing these people, the prophet tells of one who planted a vineyard in the choi-

cest spot attainable, gave it the best care possible, used the best vines available, and anticipated an abundant harvest. To his great disappointment, such was not to be. Instead of the choice grapes that should have resulted, there come forth bad fruit, wild, sour, or inferior. The parable ends with the probing question as to what should be done with such a vineyard.

The question (5:4-6). One is reminded of Jesus as he wept over the city of Jerusalem in the New Testament as Isaiah has his beloved cry, "What more could have been done that I have not done?" Jesus tells how they have stoned the prophets and killed them that had been sent by God. Still, he would have gathered them as a hen gathers her brood under her wing, but they would not accept his protection and care. Surely, he is justified in his question, and his hearers would be sympathetic with it. They, too, worked hard as tillers of the soil and often knew the discouragement and disappointment of unproductive plants. Such a vineyard has no value. Consequently, there is nothing left to do but to tear down the wall, take away the hedge, and let the land reclaim it. All the pruning and care in the world cannot make such a project productive. It is not being destroyed. It is simply being abandoned. When its protection is taken away, its natural

enemies enter in to destroy it.

The interpretation (5:6). There is now no longer any doubt as to the identity of those referred to in the parable of his beloved. Those who have sympathized with the vine dresser and condemned the vineyard must now point a finger of condemnation at themselves. "The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel." In answering the question of the parable, Israel discloses herself as the guilty party. They who have refused the protection and care of God, now hear him say, "I will lay it waste; it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no more upon it." God does not have to send punishment; he simply withholds his blessings.

From this parable, we learn a great deal about the wrath of God. He is not a vindictive Spirit who delights in seeing those who have sinned against him suffer. He is, rather, one who delights in giving that which is best to those who will accept what he offers. Those blessings are offered, but not forced. One can take them or reject them. When a talent is not used, it is taken away. When the care and protection of God are refused, one is allowed to go his own way. The disasters that result are of one's own choosing.

Life and Work

Breaking with tradition

By Gerald G. Buckley, Parkway, Natchez
Mark 2:18-22; 3:1-6

The Gospel of Mark will claim our attention for the next 16 weeks. It is the shortest and simplest of the four gospels. Most scholars believe that Mark was the first gospel written, and that Matthew and Luke had Mark before them as they wrote. It ought to be exciting to realize as we dig into the book of Mark that we are engaged in the study of the first life of Jesus ever written.

Scholars are in general agreement that John Mark was the author. Mark was a relative of Barnabas. His mother's home was an early meeting place for Christians in Jerusalem. Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas on a part of their first missionary journey. However, Barnabas took him to Cyprus. Before his death, Paul asked Timothy to bring Mark with him to Rome. Mark had redeemed himself.

It is important as we begin a study of Mark's gospel to see the influence of Peter on Mark. It was from Peter that Mark learned the intimate details of what Christ had said and done. A. M. Hunter says, "We shall not go far astray if we find in the gospel according to Mark the reminiscences of Jesus as told by Peter to his friend John Mark."

I. The danger of tradition (Mark 3:1-6)

Jesus faced his strongest opposition from those who loved their traditions more than they loved people. He

countered a man with a paralyzed hand. The Pharisees watched carefully to see whether Jesus would heal the man on the sabbath. They had no concern for the man only for their tradition.

The scripture informs us that Jesus looked around at the Pharisees with anger. What angered him was the fact that these men elevated their tradition above the need of a human being. Here, right before them, was a man in need.

It is easy for us here in Mississippi in 1984 to see the error of the Pharisees. But I wonder if we also may be bogged down in tradition without even being aware of it. A thinking individual must ponder the practice in many Baptist churches of allowing only Baptists to participate in the Lord's Supper. Have we ever considered the damage this tradition may have caused for visitors in our Baptist churches?

My wife and I visited the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh last June. We were in that city to attend the Southern Baptist Convention. I noticed as we were seated that they were having the Lord's Supper that morning. The minister warmly welcomed the large number of Southern Baptists who were present. Then, he let us know that we were most welcome to take part in the communion service. All of the Bap-

tists present gladly received the elements as they were passed. I thought to myself—I wonder how many Southern Baptist churches would refuse to welcome these Presbyterians if they were the visitors at a communion service. Many a Methodist or a Presbyterian has been made to feel unwelcome and uncomfortable during the Lord's Supper at a Baptist church. For some Baptists, the tradition seems more important than the feelings of the visitor. Is this practice biblical, or is it simply tradition?

II. New wine in old skins (Mark 2:22)

The meaning of this verse is clear: the good news of the kingdom is not to be enclosed in old forms. These religious leaders were unable to contain the new wine Jesus offered because they were prejudiced about people. They erected barriers, they had lost the joy of knowing God personally, and they had made their rules and regulations an end to themselves.

Jesus stretched the old skins with his teaching that the evidence of the new life was joy. His way of life is to be like the joy of a banquet feast after a wedding. Joy is an authentic mark of Christian discipleship. The absence or presence of joy is a sure test of our relationship with the SAVIOR. What about your church? Is it like a joyous banquet?

Elisha's concern

By Bill Causey, Parkway, Jackson
II Kings 4:13-37

There are eight miracles in the section of II Kings from 4:1 to 6:7. We are to take a close look at one of these in the passage, chapter 4, verses 13-37. It tells of a kindly Shunammite woman whose life's path was crossed by Elisha, the prophet of God. He had frequently stopped there to eat food. This prompted her family to provide a "prophet's room" for him to stay in each time he passed that way (v. 10).

Elisha was touched by her kindness and wanted to do some kindness for her in gratitude. He and his servant Gehazi determined that in view of her circumstances that a son for her would be life's highest reward. They announced to her that God would grant her a son (v. 16).

This prophecy came true and about the same time the following year, she had a son. This cherished gift, however, was to once again be the focal point of a miracle from God. Several years passed. One day when the child was in the field working with his father and his reapers, he became violently ill, complaining of a severe headache (v. 19). He was taken to his mother in whose lap he was later to die. She apparently did not tell her husband he had died but rather requested that she be permitted a servant and a donkey to take her to the "man of God," Elisha (v. 22).

Elisha noted her approach and sent Gehazi to meet her to inquire about her family one by one. Not telling the news to Gehazi, she waited until she was in Elisha's presence, seized him by the feet, and poured out a mother's grief that the son she had not requested (v. 28) had died. Gehazi was dispatched with Elisha's staff and in great haste attempted to revive the child but with no results (v. 31).

Entering the death room, the door was shut, and Elisha prayed to the Lord. As though to match his life to the child's life he fitted his own body like a mirror-image upon the child's body and life returned. Gehazi was sent to get the mother to whom Elisha said "Take up your son" (v. 36). Bowing herself she expressed her boundless gratitude and "took up her son and left" (v. 37).

The story instructs us:

1. God's providence often makes paths cross where human need is evident. Though these were kindly and contented people living there in Shunem, something was missing. God entered their lives through the person of Elisha and blessed them with their life's most cherished gift and greatest responsibility - a child. "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is his reward" (Ps. 127:3).

God uses people today to bless the lives of others in different ways. Kindly deeds by any of us may be one way God has of touching another's life. We should be careful to use these opportunities. Heaven's kindness and God's concern are often shown through some human hand. Ours need to be available to him.

II. God is involved when humans respond properly to each other. The judgement scene in Matthew 25 concludes with the inquiry "Lord, when did we see you" and not minister to you? The answer from the Lord was "... to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me" (v. 45). We are

often someone else's only hope for a better life or even survival.

III. Human things happen to good people. Even though the Shunammite woman was a superior (v. 8) person, she was not immune to the kinds of tragedies to which all human beings are subject. She instantly knew that the God who gave her that child was the one to turn to in her hour of deepest need. When children are "given" to God by dedicated parents, it should be understood that God's heart is involved in life's joy and sorrows as much as their own. Therapy for grieved parents and broken family relationships is to be found when families turn to God for his healing. Even in death there can be "healthy" grief where God is understood as the giver of life and the designer of purposes that "work together for good to them that love God" (Rom. 8:28).

IV. The only thing better than a son given is a son restored. God seems to delight in the victorious moments in life. Picture Jesus in Nain (Luke 7:11-15) walking up to a coffin and restoring the only son of a widowed mother. How revealingly touching are the words "And Jesus gave him back to his mother" (v. 15). Or in Bethany in John 11 when Jesus had restored Lazarus to life and said "Loose him and let him go" (v. 44) and returned him to his sisters Mary and Martha. Or most pointedly of all, when on that first Easter God said to the whole world with absolute finality, "He is not here, for he is risen" (Mt. 28:6). And in this story today: "She took up her son and went out" (v. 37). It is like God to cause us to know that in an ultimate sense God is in control. While the immediacy of the moment may confound us, the supremacy of the future is guaranteed by God.

Even in life's little things we should be taught to look for ultimate answers and solutions in our relation to God. Many sons and daughters may be "lost" to the family in ways other than in death for a time, but God delights in restorations when family members return to him as in the story of the Prodigal Son.

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